Instructor Information

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Course Description

Focus is on the analytical tools for the selection, collection, analysis, and interpretation of information. To achieve this, students will work individually and in groups.

Textbook

The following textbook is required: *The Science Game: 7th edition* by Agnew & Pyke, Oxford University Press. You will need to order this book so please do so as soon as possible.

Additional readings will be made available on K-State on-line

If you feel that you need additional information or assistance in a specific area, check your local library for books available. Also, feel free to suggest books that you find helpful that could be a help to others

Course Format

This course is divided into modules and will follow a modified version of the problem-based learning format.   Thus, lectures , chat rooms and the white board are designed to provide basic information to help you in solving the problems faced.

Supplemental Modules

Those of you new to K-State Online (KSOL) should take some time to become familiar with the systems. There is a tutorial for using KSOL located when you first log on to the system. Additionally, I have provided a supplemental module that will take you only to the sites within K-State Online that I will use in this course.

- € Using K-State On line

During this course you will need to work with spreadsheets and some level of descriptive and inferential calculations. If it has been a while since you have worked with either, there are supplementary modules provided.

- € Population estimates and projections
- € Descriptive statistics
- € Inferential statistics

Also, during the quantitative analysis module, feel free to use whatever software your re comfortable with, Excel, SAS, SPSS, calculator, etc. Within each of the above supplemental modules I have provided a brief description of calculations using Excel, a sample data set, and a few practice questions to help you become familiar with the formulas.

Assignments & Grading
Grades for the course will be based on project assignments, presence during chat room meetings and postings on message board.

Homework
- € all homework due on the specified due date no later than 5:00pm CST
- € five percent will be taken off homework assignments for each day project is late.

Students will work on projects both individually and in varying sized groups. Assessment of student achievement will be based accordingly.:
- € achievement of homework objective
- € clearly communicated results
- € meeting time objectives
- € group dynamics (when applicable)
- € thoroughness of research
- € validity and creativity of approach

Final grades will be based on the following:
- € 90 – 100% = A
- € 80 – 89% = B
- € 70 – 79% = C
- € 60 – 69% = D
- € below 60% = F

Graduate Student Honor System

All students at Kansas State University, including graduate students, are responsible for following the KSU honor pledge described in the Honor System. For your responsibilities as a student, please read the information on the following web site:
http://www.ksu.edu/honor/ . Many of you are enrolled through other universities which I suspect have similar honor codes. Please familiarize yourself with that code. In this course, the KSU honor code will apply.

ADA Statement
If you have any condition such as a physical or learning disability which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as I have outlined it or which will require academic accommodations, please notify me in the first two weeks of the course.

Timetable
The timetable provided on the next pages outlines the modules for this class. The first column provides the module name, second column identifies the information to be covered and the 3rd column lists the student learning objectives per module. Each module is assigned a number of week(s) and during that time you will be conducting readings and assignments on your own. To facilitate access to modules, I will *publish* all modules on Sunday morning by 10:00am CST. If you have problem accessing, downloading, etc. please let me know via e-mail or phone as soon as possible.

Timetable Module	Topics Covered/Readings	Student learning objective
Overview	• Introduction and overview • Quantitative Assessment Readings: *The Science Game Chapters 1-4*	• Assess quantitative knowledge • Heighten awareness of what research is not
Problem Identification	• Problem identification • Information Sources	• Identify, define and articulate a problem or issue to be investigated • Identify the various sources for data or information
What Scientific Research is	• Role of research in community analysis • Development of hypothesis, issues and objectives Readings: *Sommer and Sommer* – Chapter 1 and 3	• Evaluate validity and reliability of informational/data sources •
Ethics in Research	• Ethical considerations in research and analysis Readings: *The Science Game,* Chapter 13 Breach in Ethics examples University IRB training module	• Recognize ethical issues present in research • Analyze ramifications of research violations and suggest procedure to mitigate the ethical issues • Prepare information necessary to meet ethical requirements (such as the IRB process) as outlined by a particular unit
Writing your own research objective	• Further development of hypothesis, issues and objectives	•
Research Design	• Informational Needs Handout: Types of Information Needs Pg. 27-45	• Differentiate among the various informational needs • Differentiate between types of research options
Quantitative Community Analysis	• Database building • Statistical analysis • Trend analysis • Questionnaires Reading:	• Collect, manipulate and interpret quantitative data: includes use of descriptive and inferential analysis

Qualitative Community Analysis	• Introduction of Project • Content Analysis • Simulation • Observation • Mapping and trace measures • Interviews Reading: Sommer & Sommer, chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11	• Employ correct protocols to ensure valid results • Critique presented research or policy for accuracy, validity and reliability
Putting it all together		